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SPORTS

Winchester football, still perfect, begins the Super Bowl playoffs tonight at home against North Quincy after thumping Belmont

JOE MCCONNELL | SPORTS EDITOR

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This has been a familiar site for Winchester High football fans so far this year, and they hope senior captain Gianni DePrimeo (2), shown in photo, continues to run through defenses all the way to Gillette next month as the Division 2 Super Bowl playoffs begin in earnest tonight (Nov. 7, 6:30 p.m.) at Knowlton again Quincy, the 13th seed. DePrimeo, who scored three touchdowns in last Friday night's dominati visiting Belmont, and his teammates are the fourth seed overall. COURTESY PHOTO/JEN JOHNS

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It's now on to the Division 2 Super Bowl playoffs for the Winchester High School football team (8-0) after it defeated Belmont last Friday night at Knowlton Stadium with another dominating performance, 42-8. In their eight regular season games, they outscored the opposition rather convincingly, 349-92.

Coach Wally Dembowski's team is seeded fourth, and is scheduled to play host to North Quincy (4-4, 13th seed) to begin those playoffs on Friday night, Nov. 7, at Knowlton, starting at 6:30 p.m.

There are only 14 Division 2 teams in the playoffs this year after Cambridge decided to opt out. As a result, Catholic Memorial and Bishop Feehan, the division's top two teams, are getting byes in this week's Round of 16.

Regardless of the playoff machinations, the Red & Black are more than ready to go, especially their explosive offense. They scored 42 unanswered first half points against the aforementioned Marauders to take a commanding lead on Senior Night. Belmont, however, avoided the shutout in the fourth quarter with its lone touchdown of the game.

"We were able to play all 23 healthy seniors during the course of the (Belmont) game on Senior Night, and they all played well," said Dembowski.

Senior captain Gianni DePrimeo was once again the ignitor on offense, when he scampered 38 yards to account for the first touchdown of the game. Junior placekicker Will Bolognese then nailed his first of six successful extra points in this game.

DePrimeo added two more rushing touchdowns in the first half, both from 14 yards away. His classmate Nick Rotondi scored two from six and two yards out, and the rout was on. Junior running back Dominic Vo

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credited with the team's final touchdown of the game late in the second quarter.

For the record, Belmont quarterback Kyle Curtis hooked up with Andre Chavushian for a six-yard scoring strike. Elijah Pierre then ran the ball in on the two-point conversion attempt.

Dembowski played his starters on defense for three series, before taking them out to rest them up for the postseason. Ilyas Malik stood out on that side of the ball with three tackles for losses, all in the first quarter.

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On offense, Winchester only threw two passes in this game, while running the ball for 288 total yards. DePrimeo was the leading rusher with an even 100 yards, plus three touchdowns. Rotondi chewed up 79 yards to go along with his two scores.

As soon as the Winchester boys dispatched Belmont, all of their attention turned to the playoffs. Last Sunday, once the pairings were announced, they found out that it was going to be the North Quincy Raiders out of the Patriot League, who will be their first-round opponents.

"North Quincy appears to be a tough, physical team with solid size and speed on the first and second levels," said Dembowski. "We'll need to be ready for their defensive pressure, and while we are on defense, we have to play sound assignment football, because they like to throw the deep ball."

Dembowski, like all coaches, won't project beyond the first playoff game, but he did say, "we're pretty healthy at this point, and would like to just get to the next round and play the winner of the Lincoln-Sudbury (7-[illegible] seed) / Concord-Carlisle (4-4, 12th seed) Round of 16 game also on [illegible] night. But that game will begin at 7 p.m., and no matter how it comes out,

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Winchester, if victorious against the Raiders, will get another home game at Knowlton.

But like Dembowski said, “we’ll only worry about what's in front of us right now,” and that’s once again North Quincy.

But the fans think differently. They know that in two weeks, if they keep on winning, they will be playing in the Division 2 state semifinals, with the winner going to Gillette Stadium in early December to play for the Super Bowl championship.

Joe McConnell is a longtime, award-winning sports editor for numerous North Shore publications. He began covering Winchester sports for the News last November.

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SPORTS

Winchester boys basketball heads to Bridgewater-Raynham for Sweet 16 game after beating Lexington in postseason opener

It was the third meeting this year between Middlesex League boys basketball rivals Lexington (16-5, 11th seed) and Winchester (17-4, 22nd seed). They split the first two during the regular season, thus making this Round of 32 postseason matchup the impromptu rubber game of this year's series, with the

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March 3, 2026

SPORTS

Winchester wrestling enjoys Top 10 finish at state divisional meet; senior captains move on to All-States

After the Winchester High qualified wrestlers competed hard over two days last weekend (Feb. 20, 21) in the State Division 1 Meet at North Andover High School, Mother Nature gave them a break to rest and recuperate with Monday's blizzard that resulted in two days off from school. There

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February 28, 2026

SPORTS

Winchester boys hockey advances to the Sweet 16 after beating Wachusett in the tournament opener

The Winchester High boys hockey team (12-9-2), the 17th seed, edged the 16th-seeded Wachusett Regional Mountaineers (18-2-1), 5-4 in a Round of 32 Division 1 state tournament game at Westborough's Northstar Ice Arena on Feb. 25. The Red & Black will now take on top seed Catholic Memorial (18-2-1)

JOE MCCONNELL | SPORTS EDITOR

February 27, 2026

SPORTS

With postseason starting Friday night, WHS boys hoop seniors English, Sarpong, Burbine join Middlesex League elite

The Winchester High boys basketball team, the 22nd seed, will take on Middlesex League rival Lexington, the 11th seed, to begin the Division 1 state tournament in the Round of 32 on Friday night, Feb. 27, starting at 6 p.m. These teams are so evenly matched, beginning with the

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February 26, 2026

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Latest

FEATURES

‘Chicago: Teen Edition’ dances onto the Winchester High School stage

By Talia Ho | Correspondent Fame. Fortune. And all that jazz. This spring, Winchester High School presents “Chicago: Teen Edition,” a bold musical that explores celebrity culture, media manipulation, and the cost of ambition. Set in the 1920s, this iconic production is sure to leave the audience wanting more. Performances will

SPECIAL TO THE NEWS
March 4, 2026

EVENTS

Ripley Chapel in Winchester presents ‘Syldason: You Are Welcome Here’

The following was submitted by the Ripley Chapel at First Congregational Church: On Friday, March 13, beginning at 7:30 p.m., live in-person and live streamed from the stunning Ripley Chapel at First Congregational Church, Winchester, 21 Church St., join in with Syldason, a duo concert featuring Sylvie Zakarian,

March 4, 2026

NEWS

Rep. Michael Day helps House colleagues pass sweeping energy

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Winchester gun own training rules starting April 2

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affordability bill

The following was submitted by the Office of Rep. Michael S. Day: Rep. Michael S. Day and his colleagues in the House of Representatives recently passed energy affordability legislation that would result in over $9 billion in savings for utility ratepayers over the next 10 years. The bill maintains critical

March 4, 2026

Public safety data How Winchester compares on firearms licenses in comparable Massachusetts communities Active licenses as of Jan. 25, 2025 — Source: Massachusetts Criminal History Systems Board License to carry firearms Firearms identification card Winchester and Marblehead are the focus communities. Peers selected based on comparable population size, demographics and suburban

WILL DOWD | STAFF WRITER

March 4, 2026

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